

Andy Warhol

1928-1987 | American

The Last Supper Detail: Peter, John and Jesus

M.S. Rau

FINE ART • ANTIQUES • JEWELS

OVERVIEW

Easily recognizable as one of the most famous and influential artists of the modern era, Andy Warhol was the most prominent member of the Pop Art movement that dominated the art scene in the mid-20th century. He was the quintessential artist of his time and place, elevating popular and commercial culture to the realms of high art. His distinctive photographic silkscreen printing is immediately recognizable, and the present example is a truly exceptional example of the art form.

Last Supper Detail: Peter, John and Jesus is part of the final series of Warhol's illustrious career, his famed *Last Supper* series. The body of work was commissioned by his friend and art dealer, Alexandre Iolas, who challenged Warhol to create a series of works based on Leonardo da Vinci's great masterpiece *The Last Supper*. The series would be shown at an exhibition in Milan at the Palazzo Stelline, which was across the street from da Vinci's mural in the refectory of the Santa Maria delle Grazie. The art critic Arthur Danto describes the show, "When [Warhol's] Last Supper was displayed in Milan, in a kind of citywide two-man show with Leonardo, 30,000 people flocked to see it, hardly any of whom went to see the 'other' Last Supper... When the final multivolume Popular History of Art is published, ours will be the Age of Warhol – an unlikely giant, but a giant nonetheless."

Warhol's *Last Supper* cycle encompassed two distinctive series. The first included hand-painted works based on a line drawing, to which the Museum of Modern Art's *The Last Supper* and the Andy Warhol Museum's *The Last Supper / Be Somebody with a Body* belong. The second, and arguably the more important, series included silkscreens such as the present work, which Warhol derived from a black and white photograph of a widely circulated 19th-century engraving.

While the majority of his *Last Supper* silkscreens reproduce the image of the entire mural, *Last Supper Detail: Peter, John and Jesus* is among the rare detail studies that are included in the series. Unlike its unabridged counterparts, the work offers a fascinating character study that pulls the viewer into the drama and intimacy of the original work. This particular composition sheds light on the relationship between Jesus and John, physically separated by an inverted triangle of negative space, yet still compellingly intimate in their positioning. Warhol has ingeniously highlighted the connection between the two figures by muting the architectural features behind them, enhancing the psychological impact of the scene. The figure of the traitorous Peter peeks in from the left as an inescapable reminder of the fate that awaits them all.

Unlike many of his other serialized works of soup cans and Marilyns, Warhol's *Last Supper Detail: Peter, John and Jesus* has an emotional impact that elevates it beyond Pop Art's exploration of mass production and over popularization. Perhaps the intimacy of the scene derives from Warhol's own nostalgia for the work; born into a Ruthenian Catholic family, Warhol grew up in a religious home where a reproduction of da Vinci's The Last Supper graced his family's kitchen wall. With both aesthetic and sentimental ties to the image, it is little wonder that Warhol's obsession with his *Last Supper* cycle preoccupied the last year of his life. Andy Warhol died prematurely at the age of 58 in February 1987 following a gall bladder surgery. His series based on *The Last Supper* was the last he was ever to paint. ●





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Last Supper Detail: Peter, John and Jesus, c. 1986

Stamped by Andy Warhol Art Authentication Board Inc., number 102.1110 (en verso)
Silkscreen on paper mounted on canvas

Silkscreen: 45" high x 47" wide | 109.86 x 117.55 cm
Frame: 57" high x 59" wide x 3 1/2" deep | 145.10 x 150.18 x 8.89 cm

PROVENANCE

Alexander Iolas

Private Collection, United States

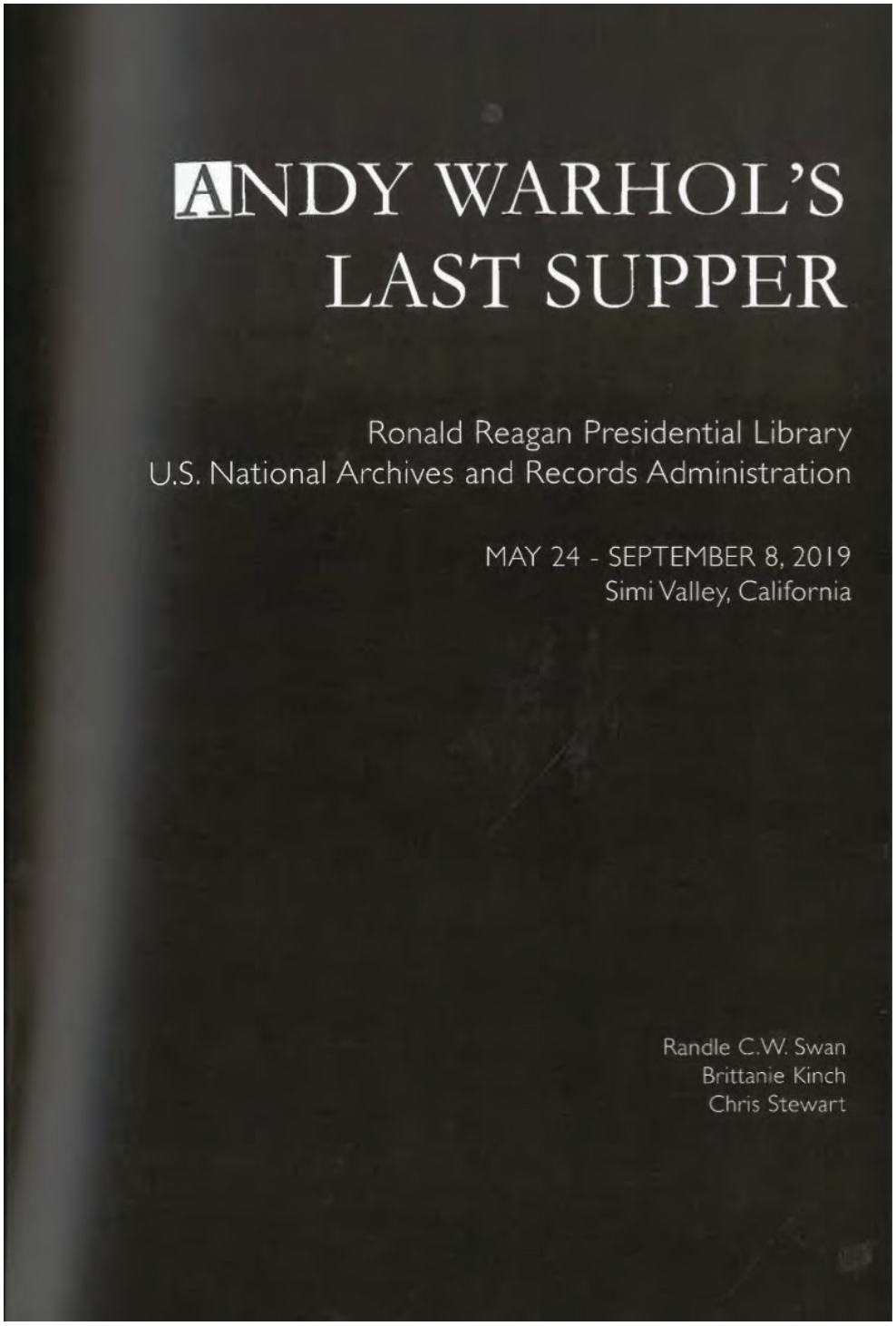
M.S. Rau, New Orleans

EXHIBITED

The World of da Vinci, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, California, May 24, 2019 – September 8, 2019



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In 1986, Andy Warhol prepared hundreds of works based on Leonardo da Vinci's *Last Supper* mural. These studies are part of a larger series of works Warhol and his studio developed that feature the entire Last Supper scene by Leonardo. The character groupings emphasize the drama and intimacy of Leonardo's original work, while focusing on specific stories within the Catholic Gospel that would have been known to Warhol.



The Last Supper
Andy Warhol, 1986
Screenprint on paper mounted on canvas

100

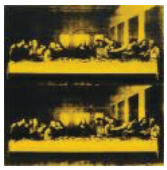
The World of da Vinci, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, California, May 24, 2019 – September 8, 2019



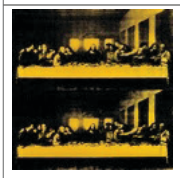
The World of da Vinci, Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum, California, May 24, 2019 – September 8, 2019

AUCTION COMPARABLES

		**Andy Warhol**
	Title	Last Supper
	Description	Andy Warhol (1928-1987)Last Supperstamped with signature 'Andy Warhol' (on the o
	Medium	synthetic polymer and silkscreen ink on canvas
	Year of Work	1986
	Size	Height 40 in.; Width 40 in. / Height 101.6 cm.; Width 101.6 cm.
	Misc.	Signed, Inscribed, Stamped
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 [Lot 0010B] Post-War and Contemporary Evening Sale
	Estimate	6,000,000 - 8,000,000 USD
	Sold For	18,727,500 USD Premium
		**Andy Warhol**
	Title	Detail of the Last Supper (Christ 112 times) yellow
	Description	acrylic and silkscreen ink on
	Medium	acrylic and silkscreen ink on canvas
	Year of Work	1986
	Size	Height 80 in.; Width 421 in. / Height 203.2 cm.; Width 1069.3 cm.
	Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Wednesday, May 14, 2008 [Lot 00053] Contemporary Part I
	Estimate	10,000,000 - 15,000,000 USD
	Sold For	9,561,000 USD Premium
		**Andy Warhol**
	Title	Last Supper (diptych)
	Description	Andy Warhol (1928-1987)Last Suppersigned and dated 'Andy Warhol 86'
	Medium	synthetic polymer and silkscreen inks on canvas
	Year of Work	1986
	Size	Height 40 in.; Width 40 in. / Height 101.6 cm.; Width 101.6 cm.
	Misc.	Signed
	Sale of	Christie's New York: Tuesday, May 13, 2008 [Lot 00008] Post War And Contemporary Art Evening Sale
	Estimate	6,000,000 - 9,000,000 USD
	Sold For	8,777,000 USD Premium



	Andy Warhol
Title	Last Supper
Description	Last Supper stamped with the artist's signature "Andy Warhol"; signed and inscribed by Fr
Medium	synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen ink on canvas
Year of Work	1986
Size	Height 40 in.; Width 40 in. / Height 101.6 cm.; Width 101.6 cm.
Misc.	Signed, Inscribed, Stamped
Sale of	Phillips New York: Thursday, May 17, 2018 [Lot 00014] 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Estimate	8,000,000 - 12,000,000 USD
Sold For	8,752,500 USD Premium



	Andy Warhol
Title	Last Supper
Description	ANDY WARHOL, "Last Supper".Stamped signature and certified on verso by Frederick Hughe
Medium	synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen on canvas
Year of Work	1986
Size	Height 40.2 in.; Width 40.2 in. / Height 102.1 cm.; Width 102.1 cm.
Misc.	Signed
Sale of	Bukowskis Stockholm: Wednesday, May 14, 2014 [Lot 00416] Contemporary 579
Estimate	60,000,000 - 80,000,000 SEK (9,158,767 - 12,211,690 USD)
Sold For	50,000,000 SEK Premium (7,632,306 USD)



	Andy Warhol
Title	The Last Supper/Be a Somebody with a Body
Description	acrylic and silkscreen ink on canvas118 1/8 x 231 1/8 in. (300 x 587.1 cm)Execut
Medium	acrylic and silkscreen ink on canvas
Year of Work	1986
Size	Height 118.1 in.; Width 231.1 in. / Height 300 cm.; Width 587.1 cm.
Sale of	Phillips New York: Wednesday, November 17, 2021 [Lot 00033] 20th Century & Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Estimate	6,000,000 - 8,000,000 USD
Sold For	6,806,000 USD Premium



	Andy Warhol
Title	The Last Supper
Description	stamp signed and inscribed with authentication by Frederick Hughes in 1986 on the overlap<
Medium	synthetic polymer paint silkscreen on canvas
Year of Work	1986
Size	Height 40 in.; Width 40 in. / Height 101.6 cm.; Width 101.6 cm.
Misc.	Signed
Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Tuesday, November 9, 2010 [Lot 00016] Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Estimate	4,000,000 - 6,000,000 USD
Sold For	6,802,500 USD Premium



	Andy Warhol
Title	The Last Supper
Description	stamp signed and inscribed with authentication by Frederick Hughes in 1986 on the overlap<
Medium	synthetic polymer paint silkcreened on canvas
Year of Work	1986
Size	Height 40 in.; Width 40 in. / Height 101.6 cm.; Width 101.6 cm.
Misc.	Signed, Stamped
Sale of	Sotheby's New York: Wednesday, November 9, 2011 [Lot 00022] Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Estimate	5,500,000 - 7,500,000 USD
Sold For	6,522,500 USD Premium

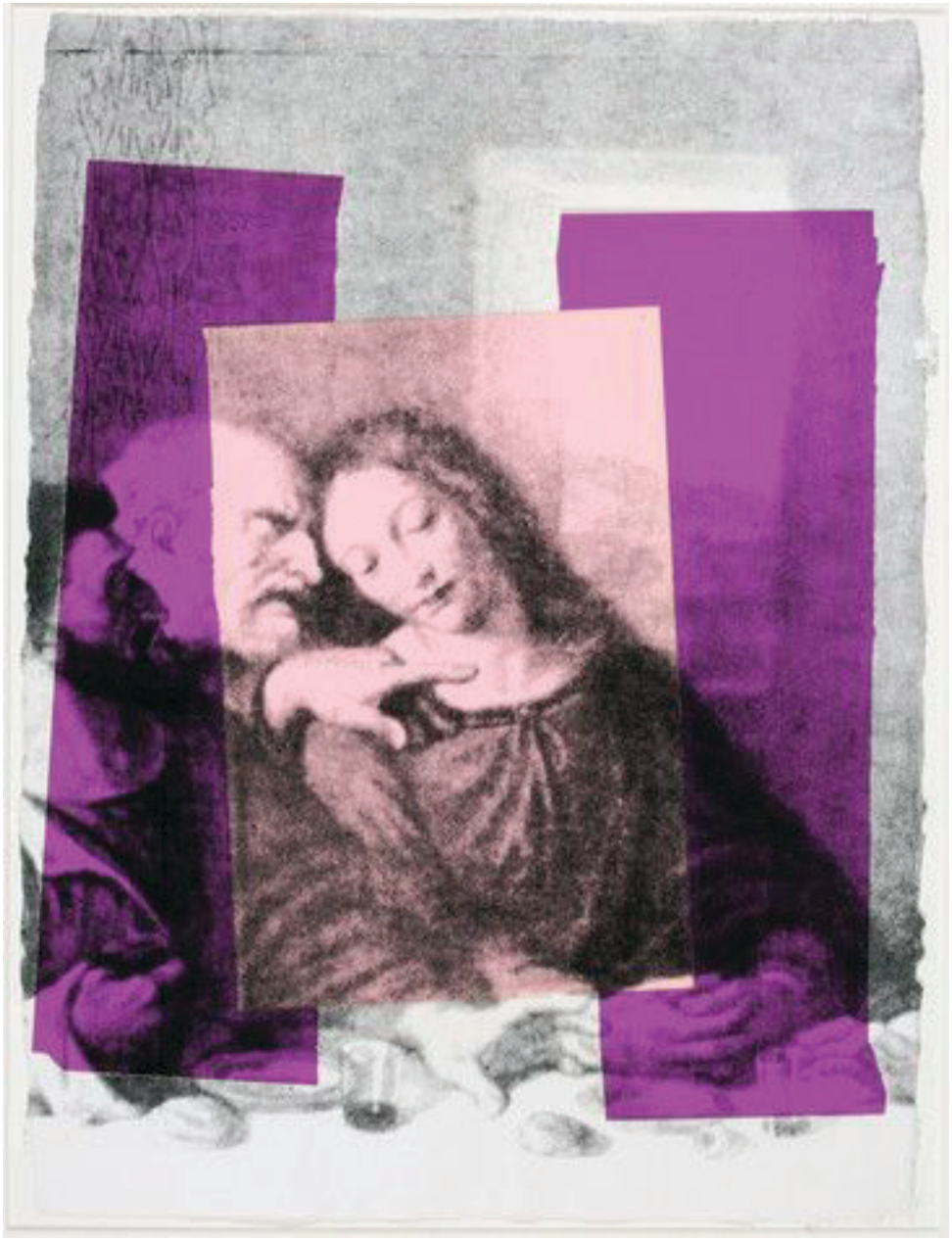


	Andy Warhol
Title	Last Supper
Description	Andy Warhol (1928-1987)Last Supperstamped with the artist's signature and inscribe
Medium	synthetic polymer paint and silkscreen ink on canvas
Year of Work	1986
Size	Height 40.2 in.; Width 40.2 in. / Height 102.1 cm.; Width 102.1 cm.
Misc.	Inscribed, Stamped
Sale of	Christie's London: Monday, June 30, 2008 [Lot 00033] Post-War & Contemporary Art Evening Sale
Estimate	2,000,000 - 3,000,000 GBP (3,988,036 - 5,982,054 USD)
Sold For	3,233,250 GBP Premium (6,447,158 USD)

Andy Warhol | *The Last Supper (detail)*

1986

Medium: Screenprint and colored graphic art paper collage on HMP paper
Dimensions: $31^{5/8}$ x $23^{3/4}$ inches | 80.3 x 60.3 cm



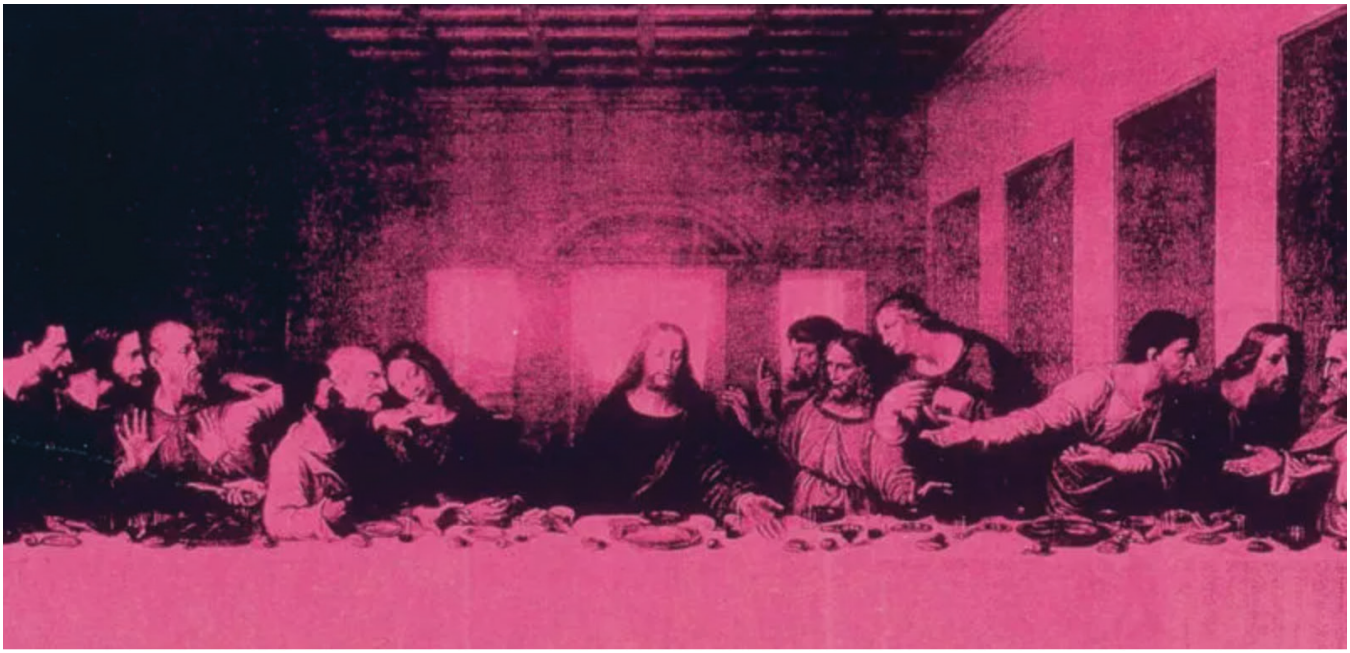
The Andy Warhol Museum
One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

The Andy Warhol Museum
Pittsburgh, PA, United States

Andy Warhol | *The Last Supper (detail)*

1986

Medium: Screenprint on paper
Dimensions: 78 x 150 inches | 198 x 381 cm



The Andy Warhol Museum
One of the four Carnegie Museums of Pittsburgh

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Pittsburgh, PA, United States

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